

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present Application. Claims 9-20 have been withdrawn from consideration; claim 1 has been cancelled, claims 2 and 4-8 have been amended, and claim 24 has been added, leaving claims 2-20 and 24 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Claims 2 and 4-6 have been amended to change their dependency.

Claim 4 has been amended to delete 5-6 membered ring.

Claim 5 has been amended to delete "such as."

Claim 7 has been amended to independent form to include the limitations of claim 1 from which it depended. Claim 7 has also been amended to correct a typographical error regarding the identification of R_6 .

Claim 8 has been amended to change its dependency and also to delete the "preferably" phrase.

Support for new claim 24 can be found in claim 8 prior to amendment.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1-6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the Specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Specifically, the Examiner states that steroidal carbothioic acid is an undefined limitation. Merely to advance prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claim 1 and amended claim 7 to include the limitations of claim 1. In addition, the dependent claims are now dependent upon claim 7. Claim 7 was not included in this rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been cancelled, thus rendering the rejections based on claim 1 moot.

Claim 4 has been amended to delete the 5-6 membered ring language.

Claim 5 has been amended to delete "such as."

Claim 7 has been amended to fix a typographical error regarding R₆.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection(s) and rejection(s) and allowance of the case are respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. **06-1130**.

Respectfully submitted,

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